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Longridge Urban District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ending December 31st, 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the Longridge Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health of Longridge for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

Longridge Urban District is comprised of the Parishes of Alston and Dilworth, and is a healthy semi-rural district, situated 7 miles North-east of Preston, and from 66 to 700 feet above sea-level.

The social conditions are, in my opinion, satisfactory.

There are four cotton mills in the district and two stone quarries, also two foundries in the neighbourhood. The majority of the employed population find work at these.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	3,285.
Population (Census, 1931)	4,158.
Estimated Population, 1937	3,991.
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census, 1931)	1,067.
Number end of 1937 (Rate Books)	1,142.
Rateable Value	£23,527.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£94 5s. 9d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate ...	59	30	29
Illegitimate	4	2	2
Total	63	32	31
Stillbirths	2	2	0
Deaths	59	22	37

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.7

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births 30

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population *14.7

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

	Deaths.
Puerperal sepsis	Nil.
Other puerperal causes	1.
Total	1.

Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 15.38

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	79.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	84.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	5.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	Nil.

POPULATION 3991.	Per 1,000 of Estimated Population.				Maternal Mortality Rate.		Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death-rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births	
Mean of 5 years—1932-1936...	13.9	14.4	0.68	1.51	16.84	16.28	51
Year—							
1936	17.5	16.0	0.74	1.23	nil	nil	70
1937	15 7	*14·7	0.25	1.25	15.87	15.38	79
Increase or decrease in 1937 *on—*							
5 years average, 1932-36 ...	+1.8	+0.3	—0.43	—0·26	—0.97	—0.90	+ 28
Previous year	—1.8	—1.3	—0.49	+0.02	+15.87	+15.38	+9

* 1937 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1.04) equals 15.2 per 1,000.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Five cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and One of Diphtheria. These cases were sent to the Isolation Hospital. All the Scarlet Fever cases recovered but the Diphtheria case died. Disinfection was carried out in the houses affected.

There is efficient hospital accommodation for Infectious Diseases at Fulwood, and for Small-pox at Elswick.

There is no provison in the district for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children, and homeless children.

The Ambulance facilities consist of a Motor Ambulance at Fulwood for the removal of infectious cases, and a Motor Ambulance at Preston Royal Infirmary for accidents.

There are no general hospital facilities locally, cases being sent to Sharoe Green Hospital and to Preston Royal Infirmary, which is a radium centre for the treatment of some forms of malignant disease and where there are facilities for pathological examination.

Facilities for the examination of sputum are provided at Elswick Sanatorium.

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre held on Tuesdays at 2 p.m., under the Lancashire County Council.

There are two part-time Public Health Officers:—

(i) Medical Officer of Health,

(ii) Sanitary Inspector, who possesses the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Efficient home nursing is provided by the Longridge and District Nursing Association.

Three Certified Midwives practise in the area, one being employed by the Longridge and District Nursing Association, operating under the Midwives' Act, 1936. There were no new applications for the registration of maternity homes.

There were five deaths from Cancer during the year, an increase of 0.02 on the previous year, and a decrease of 0.26 on the 5 years' average.

The following Bye-laws relating to Public Health in force:—

(i) Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890.

(ii) Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

(iii) Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Part VI.)

(iv) New Bye-laws as to Streets and Buildings confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 16th November, 1925.

(v) Bye-laws relating to Pleasure Grounds confirmed by the Ministry of Health, 19th November, 1930.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The district has a constant water supply from Preston Corporation which is satisfactory as to quantity and quality and is free from any source of contamination.

Refuse disposal and scavenging arrangemets are satisfactorily carried out by the authority, the drainage and sewerage are good, and there have been no new extensions made during the year. In the village all closets are coupled to the sewers. In the rural part of the area are earth closets and privies, which are emptied reguarly and the contents spread on the land.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1937.

Number of Premises visited	458.
Number of Defects or Nuisances	18.
Number abated	18.
Informal Notices served	18.
Statutory Notices served	0.
Legal Proceedings	0.

The defects found were mostly relating to closet and drainage defects and were readily attended to on request.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools in the district, four in number, have been periodically inspected and found in a satisfactory condition. One School was closed for 5 days during the year on account of Scarlet Fever.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES and MORTALITY during 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Repiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 —	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 —	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 —	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...
10 —	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 —	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 —	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 —	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 —	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55 —	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	—	3	2	—	1	...	...	..
	3		2		1		0	

The notification of Tuberculosis in the district is efficient.

HOUSING.

On the whole, the Housing conditions are good, consisting chiefly of owner-occupied cottages, farm-houses, with several better class dwellings. There are no back-to-back houses in the area.

BED-BUGS.

No complaints regarding bed-bugs were received during the year.

STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1937.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—	
(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	5
(i) By the Local Authority	0
(ii) By other Local Authorities	0
(iii) By other bodies and persons	5
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts:—	
(i) By the local authority (included under (a) (i) above)	0
(ii) By other bodies or persons (included under (a) (iii) above)	0
1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—	
(1) (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	103
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	103
(2) (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	2
2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without submitting formal Notices:—	
Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	11
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... ...	0
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

Longridge,
June 20th, 1938.

JAMES BINNIE,
Medical Officer of Health.